**Financial assistance to SCs for treatment of chronic diseases**

1524. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has formulated a new plan to help poor Scheduled Caste people to seek financial assistance for treatment of chronic diseases in certain Government hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been given wide publicity among the targeted groups to help them to take advantage of this facility; and

(d) if so, what is its feed-back in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The scheme, *viz*, "Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme" is meant to provide medical treatment facility to the patients belonging to SC category, whose annual family income is less than Rs. 50,000 and who are suffering from serious ailments related to Kidney, Heart, Liver, Cancer and Brain or any other life threatening diseases including knee surgery and Spinal surgery. The scheme is implemented in a wide range of hospitals.

(c) In order to popularize the Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme, among the targeted group, letters were sent to all District Magistrates/Dy. Commissioners, Health Secretaries of States/Union Territories, Chief Secretaries of the States and Administrators of Union Territories etc. requesting them to give wide publicity to the scheme. Further, details of the scheme are also available on the website of the Foundation (www.ambedkarfoundation. nic.in) and also on the website of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (www.socialjustice.nic.in).

(d) So far only one case has been received from Orissa in which financial assistance has been provided for medical treatment.

**Welfare schemes for SCs, STs and OBCs**

1525. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the welfare schemes for SCs, STs and OBCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last four years; and

(c) the future action plan prepared for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Policy for upliftment of disabled persons**

1526. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: